



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 890

January Session, 2009

* SB00890ET 031909 *

AN ACT CONCERNING TELECOMMUTING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) The Department of
2 Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the
3 Department of Public Utility Control and the Broadband Internet
4 Coordinating Council, established pursuant to section 4d-100 of the
5 general statutes, shall, within available appropriations, establish a
6 public-private partnership to develop a comprehensive, state-wide
7 high-speed Internet deployment strategy and adoption initiative to (1)
8 ensure that all state residents and businesses unserved by high-speed
9 Internet service, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations as of
10 January 1, 2008, have access to affordable and reliable high-speed
11 Internet service; (2) achieve improved technology literacy, increased
12 computer ownership and home high-speed Internet use among state
13 residents and businesses; (3) establish and empower local grassroots
14 technology teams to plan for improved technology use across multiple
15 community sectors; and (4) establish and sustain an environment ripe
16 for state-wide high-speed Internet access and technology investment.

17 (b) To accomplish the objectives set forth in sections 1 to 3, inclusive,
18 of this act, the Department of Economic and Community
19 Development, in consultation with the Department of Public Utility
20 Control and the Broadband Internet Coordinating Council, established

21 pursuant to section 4d-100 of the general statutes, shall contract with a
22 nonprofit organization with an established competency in working
23 with public and private sectors to accomplish wide-scale deployment
24 and adoption of telecommunications and information technology.

25 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) The public-private
26 partnership established pursuant to section 1 of this act shall include
27 input and cooperation among state agencies and bodies representing
28 economic development, local community development, technology
29 planning, education, health care and other relevant entities. The
30 private entities within the partnership shall include providers of
31 broadband service, telecommunications providers, technology
32 companies, community-based organizations and relevant private
33 sector entities to achieve the purposes set forth in said section 1.

34 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) The high-speed Internet
35 service deployment strategy and adoption initiative established
36 pursuant to section 1 of this act shall include, but not be limited to:

37 (1) Creating a geographic state-wide inventory of high-speed
38 Internet service and other relevant telecommunications and
39 information technology services, consistent with any federal data
40 reporting requirements. The inventory shall (A) identify geographic
41 gaps in high-speed Internet service through geographic information
42 system mapping of service availability and geographic information
43 system analysis at the census block level; (B) provide a baseline
44 assessment of state-wide high-speed Internet deployment in terms of
45 percentage of households with high-speed Internet availability; and
46 (C) provide updates to these data every six months;

47 (2) Tracking state-wide residential and business adoption of high-
48 speed Internet, computers and related information technology through
49 data collected directly from end-users through telephone surveys or
50 similar methods, identifying barriers to adoption and measuring
51 progress on these data annually;

52 (3) Building and facilitating in each county or designated region a
53 local technology planning team with members representing a cross-
54 section of the community, including, but not limited to, representatives
55 of business, kindergarten through grade twelve education, health care,
56 libraries, higher education, community-based organizations, local
57 government, tourism, parks and recreation and agriculture. Each team
58 shall benchmark technology use across relevant community sectors, set
59 goals for improved technology use within each sector and develop a
60 business plan to achieve its goals, with specific recommendations for
61 online application development and demand creation;

62 (4) Working collaboratively with high-speed Internet service
63 providers and technology companies across the state to encourage
64 deployment and use in underserved areas, through the use of local
65 demand aggregation, mapping analysis and the creation of market
66 intelligence to improve the business case for providers to deploy; and

67 (5) Establishing programs to improve computer ownership and
68 Internet access for disenfranchised populations across the state.

69 Sec. 4. (*Effective October 1, 2009*) On or before March 1, 2010, the
70 Department of Economic and Community Development shall report,
71 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
72 statutes, recommendations developed by the public-private
73 partnership established pursuant to section 1 of this act to the joint
74 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
75 matters relating to energy and technology and commerce.

76 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) Nothing in sections 1 to 4,
77 inclusive, of this act shall be construed as giving the Department of
78 Economic and Community Development or other entities any
79 additional authority, regulatory or otherwise, over providers of
80 telecommunications and information technology.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*